

# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

DR ALLEN THOMSON,

AS A CANDIDATE

FOR THE

PROFESSORSHIP OF THE INSTITUTES  
OF MEDICINE

IN THE

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

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1842.

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# TESTIMONIALS

IN FAVOUR OF

DR ALLEN THOMSON,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,  
LECTURER ON ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY IN EDINBURGH, &c.,

A. A.

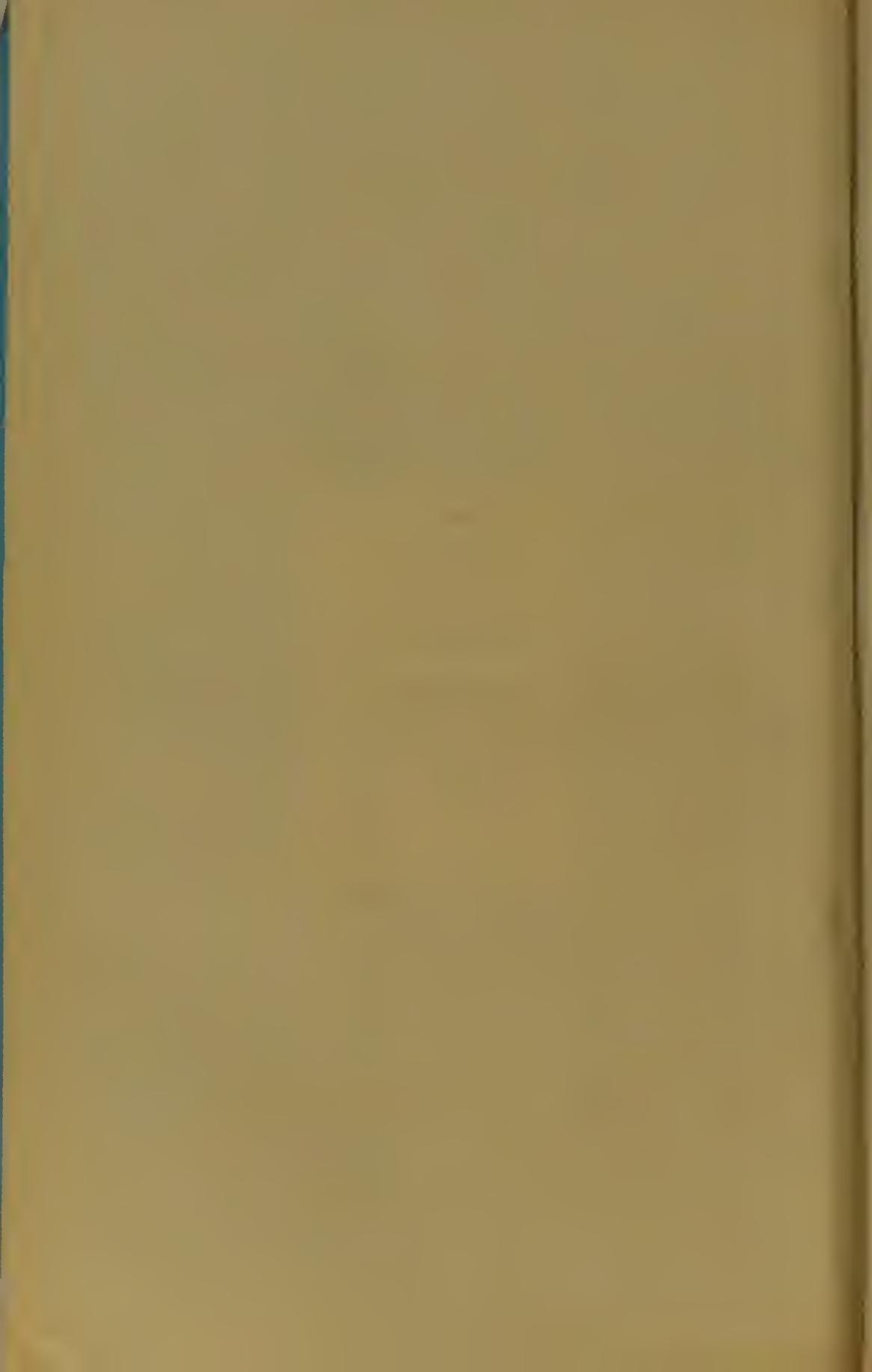
CANDIDATE

FOR THE

PROFESSORSHIP OF THE INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE  
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

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1842.



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TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE  
THE  
LORD PROVOST, MAGISTRATES, AND TOWN COUNCIL,  
PATRONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

80 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH,  
12th August 1842.

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

*I beg leave respectfully to offer myself as a Candidate for the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine, now vacant in the University.*

*In the course of a few days I shall have the honour of submitting for your consideration various Testimonials with regard to my qualifications as a Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology. In selecting these documents, I shall limit myself to those given me by men whose station in the profession, or intimate acquaintance with my pursuits, seem calculated to give weight to their opinion.*

*I shall at the same time have the honour of laying before you a list of my Physiological Writings, together with some of the opinions of the Medical Press with regard to them.*

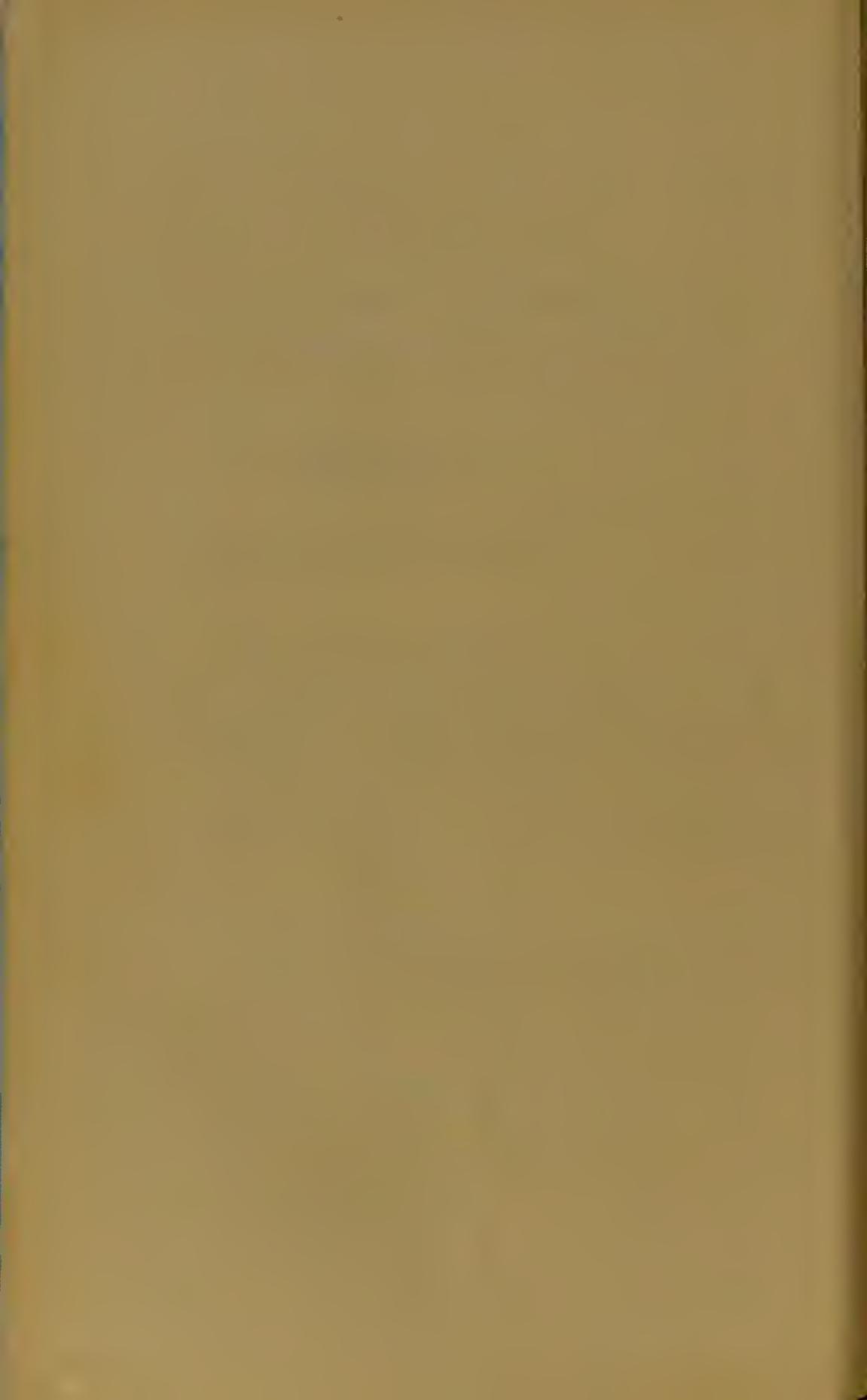
*Permit me to say, that should I be so fortunate as to obtain the distinction to which I aspire, I shall make every exertion in my power to discharge faithfully the duties of the Chair, and to uphold the credit of the University and Medical School of Edinburgh.*

*I have the honour to be,*

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

*Your obedient humble Servant,*

ALLEN THOMSON, M.D.



## LIST OF LECTURES AND WRITINGS.

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### *Courses of Lectures delivered by Dr Allen Thomson.*

During the Winter Sessions from 1832 to 1836, Dr Thomson delivered three six months' Courses of Lectures on the Institutes of Medicine or Physiology, in the Extra Academical School of Medicine in Edinburgh.

In 1834-35, Dr T. delivered a Popular Course, consisting of twenty five Lectures on the Laws of the Animal Economy, or General Physiology, for the Edinburgh Association, &c.

In 1838-39, Dr T. taught Anatomy in Edinburgh during the Winter and Summer Sessions.

In 1839-40, and 1840-41, Dr T. taught Anatomy in Aberdeen as Professor of Marischal College and University.

In 1841-42, Dr T. again taught Anatomy in Edinburgh during the Winter and Summer Sessions.

Dr Thomson's Museum, illustrative of Human and Comparative Anatomy and Physiology, contains upwards of fourteen hundred Specimens, Models, &c.; and he possesses a large collection of original and published Drawings and Diagrams employed in the illustration of his Lectures.

### *List of Dr Thomson's Physiological Writings.*

1. Three Papers on the Development of the Vascular and Respiratory Systems in the Fetus of Vertebrated Animals. Edin. New Philos. Journ. 1830 and 1831.
2. Essay on the Formation of New Blood Vessels in Wounds, Granulation, &c. Edin. 1832.
3. Account of New Experiments on the Sensibility of the Skin, by Prof. Weber, with Additional Observations. Edin. Med. and Surg. Journ. 1833.
4. Review of Prof. Panizza's Works on the Structure of the Lymphatic Absorbent Vessels, with Additional Observations. Edin. Med. and Surg. Journ. 1835.

5. Syllabus of Lectures on Physiology, in the form of Outlines. Edin. 1835.

6. Treatise on the Circulation of the Blood, in the Cyclopaedia of Anatomy and Physiology. Lond. 1836.

7. Treatise on the Function of Generation, in the same work. Lond. 1838.

8. Contributions to the History of the Human Ovum and Embryo in its Early Stages, Part 1. Edin. Med. and Surg. Journ. 1839.

9. Account of New Observations on the Structure of the Glands of the Stomach and Intestines. Read before the Meeting of the British Scientific Association at Glasgow in 1840. An Abstract of which is published in the Report of Transactions for that year.

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*The following are Notices of Dr Thomson's Writings by  
Contemporary Authors.*

1. "On this mysterious and important process Dr Allen Thomson has made a valuable series of observations and experiments. \* \* \* We have given the foregoing account of a paper very difficult to abridge, and of which our limits do not permit us to give more ample details; but we cannot conclude without saying, that the manner in which Dr Allen Thomson has conducted his inquiries is highly creditable to his talent for minute observation and accurate research. The whole paper merits the attentive perusal of the physiological reader."—*Edin. Med. and Surg. Journ.* Vol. xxxvi. p. 209.

"Dr Allen Thomson, from whose useful papers on Embryology I have borrowed the greater part of the preliminary sketch in the present section."—*Mayo's Outlines of Physiology.* 1837. P. 399.

"In the foregoing account of the Development of the Vascular System, the Author has availed himself freely of the valuable papers of Dr Allen Thomson."—*Carpenter's Principles of General and Comparative Physiology.* p. 261.

These Papers, which were translated into German, and published in Fro- riep's *Notizen*, are also referred to with approbation in various other works on Anatomy and Physiology, as

Quain's Elements of Anatomy.

Alison's Outlines of Physiology.

Roget's Bridgewater Treatise, and in the Treatise on Physiology of the same Author.

Fletcher's Rudiments of Physiology.

Von Baer's German Works on Development.

Dr Barry's Essays in the Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal, and in the Memoirs on Embryology of the same Author in the Philosophical Transactions.

Mr T. W. Jones' Papers in the London Medical Gazette in 1838-39.

Rigby's System of Midwifery. Lond. 1841.

2. "Dr Allen Thomson's Inaugural Essay on the Formation of New Blood vessels, is an extremely valuable Summary of the Observations and Opinions of these and other Physiologists on this subject."—*Fletcher's Rudiments of Physiology*, p. 31.

3. "This Syllabus (of Lectures on Physiology) presents the fullest and most correct view of the present state of Physiological Science yet given. It shews that the Author is intimately acquainted with the past and present state of the Science, and appreciates justly the exact position of each department, and the mutual relations of the whole"—*Edin. Med. and Surg. Journal*, Vol. vii., p. 5.

4. "Diagram given by Dr Allen Thomson in his excellent Paper on the Circulation in the Cyclopaedia of Anatomy."—*Baly's Translation of Muller's Physiology*, p. 158. See farther references at pp. 184, 646, and 887.

5. "To which article (Generation) we are largely indebted in the compilation of this chapter."—*Roxby's Treatise on Physiology*, Vol. ii. p. 100. See farther references at pp. 203, 205, and 222.

"The best and most comprehensive view of the whole subject of Generation, grounded on personal observation which we possess, is that by Dr Allen Thomson, in his article Generation in Todd's Cyclopaedia." \* \* \* \*

"Upon many of the relations just named, see the excellent article Generation of Dr Allen Thomson in Todd's Cyclopaedia of Anatomy and Physiology," &c.—*Wagner's Elements of Physiology Translated*. London, 1841.

"Dr Allen Thomson in his Paper on the Human Ovum fully confirms Von Baer's account of the Formation of the Amnion in Mammalia."

We rejoice to see that the number of our countrymen is daily increasing, who, with Owen, Grant, Allen Thomson, and others, are earnestly contending in the same field where Harvey and Needham and the Hunters formerly achieved a lasting renown with better means and clearer prospect."—*British and Foreign Medical Review*. 1840. Pp. 20 and 31. See farther references, Pp. 23, 24, and 25.

See also Churchill's Theory and Practice of Midwifery. London. 1842. P. 79.

Muller's Physiology Translated. P. 1583 &c.

\* \* \* Dr Allen Thomson hopes to be able, at a subsequent period, to submit to the Honourable Patrons additional Testimonials which, being from a distance, have not yet been received by him.

EDINBURGH, 20th August, 1842.

## TESTIMONIALS,

&c.

— — —  
No I.

### MINUTE OF SENATUS OF MARISCHAL COLLEGE, and University of Aberdeen.

MARISCHAL COLLEGE, 3d September 1841.

*Sedentur.* Dr DEWAR, *Principal, &c.*

Dr Allen Thomson having resigned the Professorship of Anatomy in this University, the Senatus feel themselves called upon to express and record the sense they entertain of his eminent qualifications for the office which he has filled here for nearly two years, and of his most active, unremitting, and judicious exertions for the improvement of his Pupils and the prosperity of the University. They are very sorry to part with a Colleague whom they so highly esteem; and it is their earnest and unanimous wish, that his success in his future pursuits may be such as his character and scientific attainments deserve. They direct their Secretary to transmit to him an extract of this minute.

(Signed) D. DEWAR, *Principal.*

[Extracted from the Records of the Marischal College and University of Aberdeen by JOHN CRUICKSHANK, *Secretary.*]

## No. 11.

ADDRESS presented to Dr THOMSON by the Gentlemen attending his Lectures on the Development of the Fœtus—Summer, 1842.

*To Allen Thomson, Esquire, M.D. F.R.C.S.E. &c. Lecturer on Anatomy and Physiology, Edinburgh.*

SIR,

EDINBURGH, July 1842.

We, the undersigned, who have enjoyed the privilege of attending the series of Lectures which you have delivered this summer on the Development of the Fœtus, cordially embrace the present opportunity of expressing to you our united thanks for the pleasure and instruction which have thus been afforded us. During our attendance on these lectures we have had occasion to admire the manner in which you have brought extensive anatomical and physiological knowledge, minute experimental research, and intimate acquaintance with the labours of others, to bear upon this highly interesting, but at the same time difficult subject. We have had occasion also to admire the fluency, elegance, and precision of your language, which, combined with the clearness of your arrangement, seem to us eminently to fit you for the important duties of a lecturer. We shall look with interest to your future career as a lecturer and as a man of science,—confident that in whatever situation you may be placed, you will amply justify the high opinion which we have been led to form of your talents and acquirements.

(Signed)

WILLIAM NEWBIGGING, F.R.S.E. &c.

A GILLESPIE, M.D. F.R.S.E.

GEORGE BALLINGALL, M.D. F.R.S.E., Prof. of Military Surgery in the University.

JOHN GAIRDNER, M.D. F.R.C.S.

DAVID CRAIGIE, M.D. F.R.S.E.

DAVID HAY, M.D. F.R.C.S.

JOHN DAVY, M.D. F.R.S. L. & E.

ROBERT HAMILTON, M.D. F.R.S.E.

WILLIAM CUMMING, Surgeon, R.N.

ANDREW WOOD, M.D. F.R.C.S.E

PATRICK NEWBIGGING, M.D. F.R.C.S.E

WILLIAM WALKER, Surgeon.

THOMAS H. PATTISON, M.D.

ANDREW DOUGLAS MACLAGAN, M.D. F.R.C.S.E.

JOHN STRUTHIERS.

W. T. GAIRDNER.

THOMAS JONES.

W. R. MURRAY.

JOHN GOODSIR, Conservator of Mus. Coll. Surgeons.

JOHN IVOR MURRAY.

GEORGE E. DAY, A.M.

LLYWELYN BLAND.

GEORGE WILLIAM LILLIES.

CHARLES AUGUSTUS ADEY.

WILLIAM COLLYNS.

WILLIAM J. VAN SOMEREN.

ALFRED PARR.

S. PAGAN, M.D. F.R.C.S.

ARCHIBALD INGLIS, M.D. F.R.C.S.E.

JOHN MOIR, M.D. F.R.C.P.E.

G. PATERSON, M.D. F.R.C.P.E.

ARCHIBALD DYMOCK, M.D.

ALEXANDER WATSON, M.D. F.R.C.S.E.  
JOHN SCOTT, M.D. F.R.C.S.E.  
WILLIAM SMELLIE JOHNSTONE.  
MATHEW TURNBULL.  
GEORGE GORDON.  
GEORGE L. THOMSON.  
LLEWELYN LODGE.  
WILLIAM CUMMING, M.D. Surgeon.  
ROBERT BOWES MALCOLM, M.D. F.R.C.P.  
THOMAS GRAHAM WEIR, M.D.  
JAMES D. PRIDIE, Surgeon.  
JAMES MARR, M.D. F.R.C.P.  
R. RENTON, M.D. F.R.C.P.  
THOMAS BEVILL PEACOCK, M.D.  
ROBERT WILLIAM WYNNE.  
THOMAS WRIGHT.  
JOHN KENNEDY, Surgeon.  
AUGUSTUS P. HAMILTON, M.D.  
WILLIAM BEILBY, M.D. F.R.C.P.  
R. GRAHAM, M.D. Prof. of Botany in the University.  
JOHN H. BENNET, M.D.  
E. D. WORTHINGTON.  
SAMUEL D. WELLS.  
CHARLES JAMES FORD IMLACH, M.D.  
CHARLES RANSFORD, M.D, F.R.C.P.E.  
R. STANTON WISE, M.R.C.S.L.  
EDWARD B. BOWMAN.  
WALTER ADAM, M.D.  
WILLIAM SCOTT WATSON.  
JOHN WILLIAM REID.  
ALEXANDER JACKSON, M.D.

WALTER GILCHRIST, M.D.  
 JOHN CAMPBELL, M.D. F.R.C.S.E.  
 DAVID MACLAGAN, M.D. F.R.S.E.  
 WILLIAM SMELLIE, M.D.  
 GEORGE SMITH, M.D., Surgeon.  
 ARCHIBALD W. DICKSON, Surgeon.  
 FRANCIS BRODIE IMPLACH, Surgeon.  
 HENRY WIGHT.  
 BRINSLEY NICHOLSON.  
 HENRY MARSHALL, F.R.S.E., Deputy Inspector of  
     Hospitals.  
 JAMES HERON.  
 ROBERT ETHERINGTON.  
 RICHARD BUNCE.  
 BERRY KING, M.A.  
 ROBERT H. GUNNYON, Surgeon.  
 EDWARD CRIPPS.  
 T. JAMESON TORRIE, A.M. F.R.S.E.  
 G. BELL, M.D.  
 J. Y. SIMPSON, M.D., Professor of Midwifery in the  
     University.  
 W. CROSBIE.  
 JOHN C. DA COSTA.  
 THOMAS EDMONSTONE Junior.  
 D. WIELOBYCKI.  
 JOHN MITCHELL.  
 F. D. McCOWAN, M.D.  
 JAMES H. REID.  
 WILLIAM CAMPS, M.D.  
 WILLIAM HAMILTON, Bart., Professor of Logic and  
     Metaphysics in the University.

J. MACLEOD, Surgeon.  
 ROBERT NICHOLSON.  
 JAMES INNES, M.D. H.E.I.C.S.  
 JAMES P. MUIRHEAD, Advocate.  
 J. MACFARLAN, F.R.C.S.  
 J. WOLFF, M.D. F.R.A. Götting.

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## No. III.

From JOHN ABERCROMBIE, M.D., Vice-President of  
 of the Royal Society, Physician to the Queen, &c.  
 &c.

EDINBURGH, 1st September 1841.

I have been long acquainted with Dr Allen Thomson, and have formed a high opinion of his talents and acquirements; particularly in Anatomy and Physiology—of his ardent cultivation of these departments—and of his qualifications as a public teacher.

JOHN ABERCROMBIE, M.D.

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## No. IV.

From W. P. ALISON, M.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of the Practice of Physic in the University of Edinburgh.

MY DEAR SIR,

HERIOT ROW, 13th August, 1842.

I have much pleasure in expressing my conviction, founded on my knowledge of your natural abilities—of your taste

for Anatomical and Physiological studies—of your indefatigable industry in the prosecution of these studies—and your experience in teaching, that you are eminently qualified to teach Physiology—the department of the Institutes of Medicine, to which the present arrangements of the University render it incumbent on the Professor of that branch to devote his chief or almost sole attention.—I am, Dear Sir, very faithfully yours.

W. P. ALISON

Dr A. Thomson.

No. V.

From MARTIN BARRY, M. D., F. R. S. L. & E.,  
F. R. C. P. E., Author of Various Treatises on Embryology and other subjects, &c.

ESTEEMED FRIEND,

LONDON, 27 VII. Mo. (July) 1842.

I am gratified to hear what thou hast in view, and hope that there would be but little uncertainty in the issue if thy name were proposed; feeling assured of thy superior qualifications to act as a public teacher of Anatomy or Physiology. But of those qualifications I think thou hast proofs in the success that has attended the courses of lectures thou hast lately given.

There is one department in which I may be permitted, perhaps, to bear my testimony to the great value of thy writings and investigations, namely, Embryology, which, in its most important form, was also first introduced into this country by thyself.

MARTIN BARRY

## No. VI.

FROM THE SAME.

ESTEEMED FRIEND,

LONDON, 16 viii Mo. (Aug.) 1842.

Since writing to thee I have learned that the Chair of Physiology in the University of Edinburgh is vacant, and can only again express my conviction that, should the Patrons confer the appointment upon thee, not only wouldest thou most efficiently perform the duties of the Chair, but the appointment would powerfully contribute to maintain the high character of the University, in consequence of thy well known reputation as an original inquirer in Anatomy and Physiology. Thine very truly,

MARTIN BARRY.

Dr Allen Thomson.

## No. VII.

From JOHN BOSTOCK, M.D., F.R.S., Author of a System of Physiology, &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

UPPER BEDFORD PLACE,  
August 17. 1842.

My friend, Dr Tweedie, informed me yesterday of your intention to offer yourself as a Candidate for the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh. I was preparing to write to you on the subject, when your letter of the 13th inst. came into my hands.

With your Treatises on various branches of Physiology I am well acquainted ; and, I think, I may venture to say, that I am capable of judging of their merits, which I estimate very highly. I shall, indeed, truly rejoice, not only on your own account, but on that of my Alma Mater, should you be appointed to the station which you are seeking ; and I assure you, it will give me sincere pleasure to contribute to your appointment in any way that lies in my power.

May I beg the favour of you to present my best regards to your Father, in whose society I spent so many delightful hours during my academic life. Believe me, my Dear Sir, most truly yours,

J. BOSTOCK.

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No. VIII.

From WILLIAM BROWN, Esq., formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c. &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, 17th Aug. 1842.

I cannot suppose that my testimony can avail much with reference to your professional merits, but as it is asked, I give it without hesitation.

The thorough knowledge which you possess of Anatomy and Physiology—the successful manner in which you communicate that knowledge to others—the zeal you have shewn in prosecuting your researches in Physiology—and the name which you have already acquired as an original inquirer in this department of science—qualify you in the highest degree for the Physiological Chair in the University of Edinburgh. Yours very truly,

W<sup>m</sup>. BROWN.

Dr Allen Thomson.

## No. IX.

From ANDREW BUCHANAN, M.D., Professor of the  
Institutes of Medicine in the University of Glasgow,  
Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary, &c. &c.

GLASGOW, 13 MOORE PLACE,  
15th August 1842.

Dr Allen Thomson's Memoirs on Embryology, published at a time when that subject was little known or attended to in this country, procured for him a well-merited reputation as a physiologist, which has been fully maintained by several memoirs, which he has since published, in that and other departments of physiological science. To these memoirs Dr Thomson may confidently refer, as the best testimonials he could produce of his ability to fill the office in the University of Edinburgh, for which he is now a Candidate. I may add, that Dr Thomson's familiarity with the microscope, both as an instrument of research and for the purpose of illustration, and his unrivalled dexterity in some of the most useful manipulations of Practical Anatomy, are subsidiary qualifications of no unimportant kind, in fitting him to discharge efficiently the duties of a teacher, whether of Anatomy or of Physiology.

ANDREW BUCHANAN, M.D.

## No. X.

From JOHN CAMPBELL, formerly President, of the  
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, &c. &c.

EDINBURGH, 17 ALBANY STREET,  
16th August 1842.

It affords me very sincere pleasure to give my testimony in favour of Dr Allen Thomson, as a Candidate for the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine, at present vacant in the University of Edinburgh, for which he possesses, in my opinion, qualifications of the very highest order.

Having enjoyed the advantages of a very extended and liberal education, Dr Thomson early distinguished himself, no less by his talents and acquirements, than by the unwearyed industry, zeal, and enthusiasm, which he displayed as a philosophical inquirer, more particularly in the departments of Anatomy and Physiology, the cultivation of which he has prosecuted with great assiduity and success. His valuable published contributions on these subjects are well known to the Medical Profession: and the best evidence of the estimation in which he is held as a physiologist, is afforded by the circumstance of his being quoted, as an authority, in the writings of the most eminent physiologists of the present day.

Dr Thomson is likewise very favourably known as an able public teacher; possessing a ready elocution, and fluent delivery, he has acquired the power of imparting with great facility his knowledge to others; and by the lucid order observed in his lectures, and the able and comprehensive manner of discussing the matter under consideration, he is enabled to render an abstruse and difficult subject attractive to his audience.

It appears superfluous to add, that, with these qualifications, Dr Thomson must prove an able and distinguished Professor of Physiology, and must fully justify the choice of the Patrons, if elected to fill that Chair.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

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No. XI.

From Sir JAMES CLARK, Bart. M.D., F.R.S.,  
Physician to the Queen, &c. &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

LONDON August 17. 1842.

The Patrons of the University of Edinburgh having, as I think, most wisely, established a separate Professorship of Physiology, they cannot, in my opinion, appoint a more competent person than yourself to fill the Chair. Looking to your ardour in the cultivation of Minute Anatomy and Physiology, the character of your published writings, and your power of communicating your knowledge as a Lecturer, I can safely say that I am not acquainted with any one more fully qualified to teach that important branch of medical science. I am, my Dear Sir, very truly yours,

JA. CLARK.

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XII.

From JOHN COLDSTREAM, M.D.

LEITH, 17th August 1842.

An intimate acquaintance of many years' standing with Dr Allen Thomson has led me to form a very high estimate of his abilities and acquirements. He has always been emi-

nently distinguished by acuteness of intellect, capacity for patient investigation, and a thorough love of truth. These long ago led him to enter upon researches in some of the most intricate departments of physiological science, which he has pursued with much success. His labours are well known to all physiologists ; many of whom have borne the strongest testimony to the value of the results at which he has arrived. Of his fitness to discharge the duties of a Professorship, his past successes as a Lecturer supply the best proof. Should he be appointed to that Chair to which he now aspires, the medical world, both at home and abroad, will confidently expect that he will raise still higher the character of the University, both by continuing his original researches and by imparting largely of his own zeal to all his pupils. His natural talents, his early education (directed, as it was, by his illustrious parent, so pre-eminently qualified for the task), his learning, his powers of observation, his kindness of feeling, and amenity of manner, his patience and care in endeavouring to impart knowledge to others, and his remarkably extensive acquaintance with learned men of all nations, present together such an union of qualifications for the high standing of a Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, as can rarely be conjoined in one person.

JOHN COLDSTREAM.

## No. XIII.

From ANDREW COMBE, M.D., Author of Works on the Principles of Physiology, &c., on Insanity &c., Formerly Physician to the King of the Belgians, &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, 16th August 1842.

I have much pleasure in complying with your request that I should state my opinion of your qualifications for the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine, now vacant in our University.

From circumstances arising out of an infirm state of health, I have not been able to enjoy that intimate personal acquaintance with you, and others of my professional brethren, which I should otherwise have been glad to cultivate, but I have not, on that account, been either inattentive to what has been passing around me, or uninterested in the prosperity of the University: and I can say with truth, that, from the moment I heard of the anticipated vacancy, you were the person who occurred to me as the best qualified, within my own knowledge, for the duties of the Chair. From the natural bent of your mind, you have from an early age devoted yourself to the successful cultivation of Anatomical and Physiological knowledge, and are already extensively and favourably known to the scientific world by your able contributions to both,—and without an intimate acquaintance with Anatomy, no one, it is now universally admitted, can attain much eminence as a physiologist. Of your qualifications as a Lecturer I cannot speak from personal experience; and I mention this explicitly, because I do not wish my testimony to pass current for more than it is worth on a point of such vital importance to the interests of the University.

But I feel perfectly justified in stating, that I have, for some years past, often heard your pupils express themselves strongly in praise of the clearness and method of your expositions, of the patient kindness with which you were ever ready to aid them in their difficulties, and of the interest in the subjects which your own zeal excited in their minds. I have, therefore, myself no doubt that you *do* possess in a high degree that most indispensable of all qualifications for a professor, viz. the power of imparting your knowledge to others in such a way as at once to secure its accurate comprehension by your hearers, and to fix their attention and rouse their zeal; but as I have not heard your lecture I cannot urge my opinion upon others, as entitled to implicit confidence. Should you be the successful Candidate, I feel assured, from your talents, activity, steady perseverance, and extensive research, that you will fulfil the duties of the Chair with great credit and success.—Believe me, my Dear Sir, yours very truly,

ANDREW COMBE.

Dr Allen Thomson, 80 George Street.

## XIV.

From DAVID CRAIGIE, M.D. F.R.S.E. &c.

EDINBURGH, 43 Queen Street, 15th Sept. 1841.

I have known Dr Allen Thomson for many years, and I can most justly and conscientiously bear testimony to the extent and the accuracy of his information in anatomical and physiological science.

Dr Thomson has received a most excellent education, general and medical, under the eye of his father, whose

knowledge, learning, and talents, are too well known to require the support of my testimony; and he has further enjoyed the advantage of studying in several of the most eminent Continental schools.

For several years past Dr Thomson has devoted himself particularly to the study of Anatomy and Physiology; and in teaching these sciences in this city has been deservedly much esteemed for his clear method of lecturing and demonstration in the former department, and the extent of his knowledge, as well as the great precision and the correct views which he gave in the latter science.

In Physiology, he has remarkably distinguished himself by the novelty and accuracy of his researches, especially in the history of the Development of the Ovum, in which the facts ascertained by him have now become an integrant part of the science, and have invested his name with deserved celebrity.

These researches, and his observations and views on the Capillary Circulation, give evidence, not only of thorough knowledge of the subject, but of great ingenuity and perseverance, and a degree of clearness and soundness of judgment rarely equalled. In the latter circumstance, indeed, Dr Thomson appears to particularly excel; and I can scarcely mention any one that I know, either personally or by his writings, who unites so large a proportion of care in observing, and coolness and clearness in drawing conclusions, as I have observed in him.

From these circumstances it cannot be wonderful that I give my opinion that Dr Thomson possesses peculiar qualifications for enabling him to teach Anatomy and Physiology with judgment, method, and perfect efficiency. I scarcely, indeed, can name any one among my friends who possesses so many of the conditions requisite, in my opinion, to constitute an able and successful teacher of these branches.

## No. XV.

From J. H. DAVIDSON, M.D. formerly President of  
the Royal College of Physicians, &c.

EDINBURGH, July 26. 1842.

I have much pleasure in giving testimony as to the qualifications of Dr Allen Thomson for teaching Anatomy and Physiology, being acquainted with no individual more competent for giving instruction in those important branches of medical study.

Dr Allen Thomson has had the advantage of a liberal education, both general and professional, under the superintendence of his father, the eminent Dr John Thomson. He has zealously cultivated unusually good natural talents, and devoted much time and attention to the acquisition of minute and accurate knowledge of descriptive, general, and pathological anatomy; and he has proved himself, by valuable treatises, to be a laborious, cautious, and ingenious physiologist.

As a Lecturer upon Anatomy and Physiology, I know that Dr Allen Thomson possesses the faculty, so essential to a teacher, of interesting, while he instructs, those who look to him for information, and that he has already acquired the character of being useful, conscientious, and attractive, in the performance of his duties.

As a Teacher, therefore, of the kindred subjects of Anatomy and Physiology, either combined, or separated as they should be on account of their extent and importance, I consider Dr Allen Thomson to be a most valuable acquisition to any University.

J. HENRY DAVIDSON.

## No. XVI.

From JOHN DAVY, M.D., F.R.S.L. & E., Inspector of Hospitals, Author of various Works on Physiological and other subjects, &c. &c.

33 CHARLOTTE SQUARE,  
*August 11. 1842.*

I have much satisfaction in expressing the very high opinion I have formed of Dr Allen Thomson, both as an original inquirer, and as a Lecturer; and, in connection with this opinion, my belief that he is eminently qualified to fill the Chair of Physiology or of the Institutes of Medicine, now vacant in the University of Edinburgh.

J. DAVY.

## No. XVII.

From the Rev. JOHN FLEMING, D.D., Professor of Natural Philosophy in the King's College and University of Aberdeen, Author of the Philosophy of Zoology, and various other Works.

KING'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN,  
*September 10. 1841.*

Having been requested to express my opinion of the fitness of Dr Allen Thomson for discharging the duties of a Professor of Anatomy and Physiology, I do most willingly bear my humble testimony to his pre-eminent qualifications.

He is well known to possess all the advantages of a vigorous mind, trained by a judicious general education and

extensive opportunities of intercourse with society in different parts of Europe. With these are united an agreeable temper, prudence, and good taste.

Dr Thomson likewise possesses all the qualifications which result from a liberal professional education, conducted under peculiarly favourable circumstances. The papers which he has communicated to the public on subjects connected with Anatomy and Physiology, furnish very satisfactory examples of extensive eruditio and patient research. To a minute and accurate acquaintance with the internal structure of organized beings, he adds enlarged philosophical views of their functions and relations, and thus happily combines the higher qualities of the anatomist and physiologist.

With such convictions on my mind, I can have no hesitation in predicting that Dr Allen Thomson would greatly extend the reputation of any School of Medicine, as a Teacher of Anatomy and Physiology, by his knowledge and zeal, and contribute to the happiness of his colleagues by his private worth.

JOHN FLEMING.

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No. XVIII.

From JOHN GAIRDNER, M.D., formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, &c.

EDINBURGH, June 23. 1842.

I beg to offer it as my opinion, that Dr Allen Thomson is exceedingly well qualified to be a Professor or Lecturer, either on Anatomy or on Physiology, in any University or Seminary of Medical Education, in which the services of a teacher of either of these branches may be required.

This opinion is not formed hastily, nor on slight and insufficient grounds, but rests on the following considerations: —

1<sup>st</sup>, My knowledge of his literary contributions to these departments of science, many of which I have not merely read with interest, but studied with care for the sake of the valuable information which they contain.

2<sup>d</sup>, The fact, that, as Professor of Anatomy at Aberdeen, and as a Private Lecturer here, he has given public instructions in these departments with the greatest ability and success. I have had many opportunities of hearing him lecture, and have found that he unites perfect mastery over his subject with great facility of expressing his thoughts and of sustaining the attention of his auditors. That these qualities are duly valued by the students is evident from the large size of his classes last winter.

3<sup>d</sup>, The fact, that he has attained, by means of the contributions already mentioned, to a high reputation as an original inquirer in these two departments, and that at a comparatively early period of his life. I can appeal confidently to the sense of the profession for the correctness of this statement; and I know that it can be substantiated by the production of the recorded sentiments of some of those who stand high in the departments alluded to.

4<sup>th</sup>, A great number of practitioners of this place, many of them of my own standing, and some of them my seniors, have attended this season his lectures on Foetal Development, an important department of Anatomy and Physiology, on which his writings have thrown much light, and on which his information is universally esteemed to be inferior to that of no one else, here or elsewhere.

5<sup>th</sup>, He has enjoyed unusual advantages of education in the profession which he has selected. He is the son of one of the most learned and most able teachers of whom our

School of Medicine can boast, and has been educated under his father's superintendence. From what I have already said, it will be obvious, that this great and undeniable advantage has not been thrown away, but has been bestowed upon one whose tastes and talents enabled him to profit by it.

I have only to add, in matters not professional, that Dr Thomson is a man of excellent general information and education, and that he is in point of moral character perfectly unexceptionable.

JOHN GAIRDNER, M. D.

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No. XIX.

From DAVID HAY, M. D., formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

7 QUEEN STREET, June 23. 1842.

I have much pleasure in offering my unqualified testimony to your ability to teach Anatomy and Physiology, separate or conjoined, and this testimony I found upon the knowledge I have of your successful career as a teacher of these branches of medicine, both in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, and also upon the opportunity I have this summer enjoyed of attending your Lectures and Demonstrations on the Development of the Fœtus, a subject of deep interest, and at the same time of great difficulty, and which, I will venture to say, was never illustrated with more perspicuity in this or any other School of Medicine in Great Britain.

You possess the faculty of riveting the attention of your

andience, whilst you smooth the difficulties and intricacies of your subject by the clearness and precision of your language; and I am aware that few individuals have cultivated Anatomy and Physiology with equal zeal, or with the same power of communicating their acquirements to others. Believe me, yours sincerely,

DAVID HAY.

To Dr Allen Thomson.

No. XX.

From ROBERT LISTON, Esq. F.R.S. Surgeon to the North London Hospital, and Professor of Clinical Surgery to University College, London.

5 CLIFFORD STREET, LONDON,  
*Sept. 6. 1841.*

Dr Allen Thomson has been very favourably known to me for many years as a most accomplished and zealous anatominist and physiologist. His various Papers shew great research and ability. Dr Thomson has proved himself to be a good and efficient teacher, and would, in my opinion, add lustre to any school to which he may be attached.

ROBERT LISTON.

## No. XXI.

From DAVID MACLAGAN, M.D., F.R.S.E., Surgeon to the Queen; formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, &c.

EDINBURGH, June 27. 1842.

Having known Dr Allen Thomson from his early years, and had opportunity from constant intercourse to observe his character and acquirements, I feel justified in expressing the highest opinion of his moral worth and professional eminence.

Dr Allen Thomson, after enjoying here under the guidance of his distinguished father, the advantages of an excellent education in literature, and in general and medical science, pursued his studies at the most celebrated Schools of the Continent, and by his knowledge of modern languages, was enabled amply to avail himself of the instruction they afforded. Thus well prepared, Dr Allen Thomson has, for many years, devoted himself more especially to the departments of Anatomy and Physiology, and by his lectures and writings, has fully realized the promise of scientific reputation, which his excellent natural talents, sound judgment, zeal, and industry, had early held out.

His course of Lectures this summer on the Development of the Foetus in the human species, and in various animals, has attracted the attendance of many of the seniors in the profession; and by the knowledge he displays of this intricate subject, and the clearness with which he elucidates it, he has commanded the attention and excited the interest of both the old and young of his audience. I feel confidence in expressing the opinion, that by his general and professional acquirements, ardour in philosophical research, and

power of communicating instruction, Dr Allen Thomson is admirably qualified to be a teacher of Anatomy and Physiology; and at the same time by his reputation as a Physiologist at home and abroad, to uphold and extend the fame of the University and Medical School of Edinburgh.

DAVID MACLAGAN.

No. XXII.

From Sir WILLIAM NEWBIGGING, formerly President  
of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c.

EDINBURGH, 29 HERIOT ROW,  
June 28. 1842.

I embrace with great pleasure the opportunity afforded me of expressing the very high opinion I entertain of Dr Allen Thomson's varied talents and attainments.

Dr Thomson has been known to me for many years as a zealous and successful cultivator of the sciences of Anatomy and Physiology, the boundaries of which he has been very instrumental in extending by his well-known investigations, into many intricate, and hitherto obscure points, connected with these subjects. In these inquiries he has displayed, in an eminent degree, great soundness of judgment, combined with a philosophical accuracy of induction so strictly necessary in scientific pursuits.

Dr Thomson, as a Lecturer, has been remarkably successful, having acquired well merited popularity amongst the students; and I have had occasion to admire the extremely clear and fluent manner in which he communicates information to others. His urbanity of manner, and upright and

honourable conduct, have rendered him justly esteemed by the profession.

I feel confident that Dr Thonison is eminently qualified to discharge the duties of Professor of Anatomy and Physiology with great credit to himself, and honour to the institution with which he may be connected.

WILL. NEWBIGGING.

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No. XXIII.

From J. M. PAGAN, M.D., Professor of Midwifery in the University of Glasgow, Physician to the Lying-in Hospital, &c. &c.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW,  
*August 15. 1812.*

I take great pleasure in bearing testimony to the eminent qualifications of Dr Allen Thomson, and to his peculiar fitness for the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine.

Dr Thomson is well known to the scientific world as a most distinguished Anatomist, and his contributions upon some of the most difficult and obscure subjects of Physiology have obtained for him a high European reputation; and I have reason to know, that his writings are held in the highest repute by those who have been most successful in the pursuit of similar subjects. Dr Allen Thomson has the faculty of expressing his ideas in the most lucid manner, and I have had the pleasure of listening to Anatomical demonstrations by him, which appeared to me to be perfect models of order, clearness, and precision.

J. M. PAGAN.

## XXIV.

From RICHARD QUAIN, F.R.S., Professor of Anatomy  
in University College, London, &c.

LONDON, 7th Sept. 1841.

Dr Allen Thomson has been, during some years, highly distinguished by the important Anatomical researches which he has conducted; and he has been in like manner most advantageously known by writings which afford evidence of most accurate and extensive knowledge. His merit as an original observer and Teacher of Anatomy and Physiology are of the highest order, and, in my judgment, give him indisputable claims.—claims which, I cannot doubt, would be universally allowed—to any position that he may aspire to in these departments of medical science.

R. QUAIN.

## No. XXV.

From ROBERT RENTON, M.D. F.R.C.P., Consulting Physician to the Lying-in Hospital, &c.

MY DEAR SIR

EDINBURGH, 26 HOWE STREET,  
22d July 1842.

In compliance with your request that I should express my opinion of your character as an Anatomist and Physiologist, I transmit it without the slightest hesitation or reserve, and only fear that less weight may be attached to it than your merits deserve. I have great pleasure in stating, that there is no individual of your standing with

whom I am acquainted personally or by reputation in this or any other country, who has so early acquired for himself as you have, such highly deserved celebrity in the respective departments of Anatomy and Physiology.

The zeal, industry, and talent with which you have so successfully cultivated these two indispensable branches of our profession, is best attested by your valuable writings on these subjects, which have earned for you a solid and lasting fame wherever medical science is known and duly appreciated.

As a Teacher, I have had ample opportunities of bearing testimony to the natural, easy, and unaffected manner of delivering your instructions, conjoined with a very great facility in imparting those instructions to your auditors, in language at once simple, eloquent, and instructive. Aware of your possessing other advantages of a very high character, calculated to improve the feelings, as well as to enlarge the understanding of your pupils, I can, with perfect sincerity for the well-being of any institution with which you in future might wish to be connected, express my desire that any application you may offer may meet with that ready response to which your high claims in every respect so undoubtedly entitle you. Believe me, my Dear Sir, yours truly,

ROBERT RENTON.

To Dr Allen Thomson

## XXVI.

From P. M. ROGET, M.D. Sec. R.S., Author of the Bridgewater Treatise on Physiology, and various other Works, &c.

BERNARD STREET, LONDON,  
*July 14. 1842.*

The distinguished reputation which Dr Allen Thomson has deservedly acquired as a Physiologist, points him out as being pre-eminently qualified to occupy the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh; and I have great pleasure in adding my testimony to that effect.

P. M. ROGET.

## XXVII.

From WILLIAM SHARPEY, M.D. F.R.S.L. & E. Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the London University College, &c.

LONDON, 11th August 1842.

I gave Dr Allen Thomson the subjoined testimonial three years ago, and I have now great pleasure in renewing it.

W. SHARPEY.

68, TORRINGTON SQUARE, LONDON,  
*14th Sept. 1839.*

I have been on terms of the most intimate friendship with Dr Allen Thomson for the last ten years, and from 1831 to 1836 I was associated with him in teaching. In consequence of this long intimacy, I have become well acquainted with his character, his talents, and accomplishments, as well as the professional and scientific pursuits in which he has been engaged; and having been frequently present at his lectures myself, and for some time in almost daily communication with his pupils, I am enabled also to

bear testimony as to the manner in which he performs his duties as a teacher. I now rejoice to think that there is nothing which friendship might prompt me to say in his behalf, which my knowledge of his excellent qualities will not fully justify.

Dr Thomson is a man of most upright and honourable character, of good temper and obliging disposition. He possesses great natural talents, and a remarkably sound and well disciplined understanding; he is regular and punctual in all things, of active habits and persevering industry. He has had the advantage of a very extended education, both general and professional; he is well versed in general science, and acquainted with the French, German, and Italian languages. He has visited the chief medical schools and scientific institutions in Europe, and corresponds with several of the most eminent men of science on the Continent whose pursuits are congenial with his own.

Dr Thomson is thoroughly conversant with the subject which he teaches, being both practically acquainted with it, and well read in the best authorities on Anatomy and Physiology. His manner of communicating instruction is easy and agreeable, his language ready, appropriate, and perspicuous, and he enjoys uncommon advantages as a teacher, by his happy facility of contriving and executing such illustrations and aids as are calculated to assist the student's comprehension of difficult and intricate subjects.

While Dr Thomson thus possesses, in an eminent degree, the power of communicating elementary knowledge, I know of few persons so well qualified as he is to maintain a high tone in their instructions, and to convey those enlightened and philosophical views of the subjects taught, which are calculated to bring into exertion the higher qualities of the pupil's mind, elevate his pursuits, and prepare him to enter with the greatest advantage on the subsequent stages of his studies.

Lastly, Dr Thomson is endowed with great aptitude for the prosecution of scientific enquiries, and his various publications, embodying his observations on some of the most intricate and difficult, as well as the highest and most important, questions in Anatomy and Physiology, have acquired for him, both at home and abroad, a high reputation as a scientific inquirer. With such sentiments it is scarcely necessary for me to add that I consider Dr Allen Thomson, in all respects, admirably qualified to discharge the duties of Professor of Anatomy or of Physiology in any University or Medical School, and that I am convinced he will contribute powerfully to maintain and to advance the reputation of any Institution with which he may be connected.

W. SHARPEY.

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No. XXVIII.

From JAMES Y. SIMPSON, M.D., Professor of Midwifery in the University of Edinburgh, &c.

EDINBURGH, August 1842.

I believe Dr Allen Thomson to be one of the most accomplished anatomists and physiologists of the present day, and to be admirably qualified for teaching these branches of medical science.

Dr Thomson possesses a very extensive knowledge of the literature of these subjects. But his great and strong claims do not rest on this basis alone. Dr Thomson has to my knowledge most assiduously and successfully devoted himself for many years past to the severe study of minute anatomy, by the constant use of the scalpel and microscope ; and he has in many points cleared up the field of physiology by his masterly observations and experiments.

There is one department of Anatomy and Physiology, viz., Fœtal Development, which is intimately connected with the study of Midwifery, and on which, therefore, I may be permitted to give my opinion more particularly. I express my own conviction, and, I believe, the universal conviction of my professional brethren, when I state that it was to Dr Thomson's writings and researches on this subject, that British medical science was first indebted for an acquaintance with this difficult but most important and extensive department of anatomical knowledge. Dr Thomson's valuable original observations on this subject, and the different masterly essays which he has published upon it, have procured for him a high reputation throughout Europe, and I believe he is now everywhere looked upon as one of the first authorities in all points connected with this branch of science.

I had the pleasure of attending the first Course of Lectures which Dr Thomson delivered in Edinburgh, and hence can most amply and sincerely testify to the remarkable perspicuity of arrangement, fluency of diction, and powers of description, which distinguish him as a Lecturer.

JAMES Y. SIMPSON.

No. XXIX.

From JAMES SYME, Esq., F.R.S.E., Professor of Clinical Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, &c.

EDINBURGH, 12th September 1839.

Having been requested to express my opinion of Dr Allen Thomson's qualifications for a Professorship of Anatomy and Physiology, I feel warranted to state that he is in every re-

spect and in the highest degree qualified to discharge the duties of such an office.

Dr Thomson has been long devoted to the pursuit of Anatomy and Physiology, and is intimately acquainted with organic structure and function, not only in man but in the lower animals.

He is extremely well read in the literature bearing on the subjects of his study, and has contributed to it by his own writings, which have been favourably received by the profession. He has also shewn, by his success in teaching, that he possesses the power of communicating information in an agreeable and instructive manner. It may be added, that he has had the advantage of a liberal education, and that his conduct has been uniformly characterized by good sense and honourable feeling.

On these grounds, I entertain the opinion that Dr Thomson is eminently prepared to occupy a Chair of Anatomy and Physiology with credit to himself and benefit to all the interests of the Institution with which it is connected.

JAMES SYME.

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No. XXX.

From R. B. TODD, M.D., F.R.S., and Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in King's College, London, &c.

LONDON, October 14. 1839.

This is to certify, that I have known Dr Allen Thomson for some years, and have perused his various publications with much pleasure and instruction.

I consider Dr Allen Thomson to be among the ablest Anatomists and Physiologists in this or any other country; and eminently qualified to fill with advantage to the public and to science a chair of Anatomy and Physiology.

R. B. TODD

No. XXXI.

From THOS. STEWART TRAILL, M.D. F.R.S.E., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Edinburgh, &c.

MY DEAR SIR, FAIRLIE, AYRSHIRE, *August 18. 1842.*

Your letter found me in this quiet retreat; and I beg leave to assure you, that ever since I came to reside in Edinburgh, I have marked the assiduity and success with which you have long cultivated the various branches of our profession, especially Physiology, and its kindred subjects.

The high opinion which I was thus led to form of your professional attainments, has since been fully confirmed by the approbation with which the world has received your published Papers on different important Physiological questions. These circumstances, combined with the favour with which your pupils have received your instructions, and your gentlemanly manners, leave no doubt on my mind that you will prove an able and acceptable teacher, and will do credit to any school of medicine with which you may be connected. I am, my Dear Sir, with best wishes for your success in all your undertakings, your sincere friend,

THOS. STEWART TRAILL.

Dr Allen Thomson, Edinburgh.

## No. XXXII.

From BENJAMIN TRAVERS, F.R.S., Surgeon to St Thomas's Hospital, London, &c., to WILLIAM WOOD, Esq.

MY DEAR WOOD,

BRUTON STREET, *July 1. 1842.*

I entertain the highest opinion of Dr Allen Thomson's information and talents generally; but especially in the departments of Anatomy and Physiology, in which sound knowledge, coupled with zealous industry and strict observation and reasoning, are at this time inappreciable.

From my opportunities of forming a judgment, I should say that the election of Dr Allen Thomson to the Chair of Physiology would redound to the benefit of any class which had not enjoyed the advantage of Dr Alison's instructions, and to the honour of the University as a substantial accession of strength, under all circumstances. Believe me, my Dear Wood, very truly yours,

BENJAMEN TRAVERS.

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No. XXXIII.

From ALEXANDER TWEEDIE, M.D., F.R.S., Physician to the Fever Hospital, and to the Foundling Hospital, &c.

LONDON, *12th July 1842.*

In stating my opinion of the qualifications of Dr Allen Thomson for the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, I feel that I am only repeating the sentiments of the profession throughout the country.

His published Writings evince the zeal with which he has pursued the investigation of many of the more abstruse departments of Physiology, and have gained him the highest reputation as one of the most distinguished Physiologists of the present day.

Dr Thomson has also the great advantage of having proved himself a most successful Lecturer, as the number of pupils who have attended his class evince; his agreeable manners and amiable deportment have gained him general esteem, and the warm friendship of an extensive circle of private friends.

A. TWEEDIE.

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No. XXXIV.

From ALEXANDER WATSON, M.D., F.R.C.S., Consulting Surgeon to the Royal Infirmary.

51, QUEEN STREET,  
EDINBURGH, August 18. 1842.

I have much pleasure in stating that I have known Dr Allen Thomson during the whole course of his professional pursuits, and have had occasion to remark the uniform zeal and assiduity with which he applied himself, in order to become accomplished in Anatomy and Physiology.

I consider the success which has attended his labours to be very great, both as an original investigator, and as a teacher. In both of these capacities he has shewn talents of the highest order. His late course of lectures on the Development of the Fetus which I attended, not only commanded the attention of the profession, but called forth the general admiration of those who heard him

Dr Thomson's mode of lecturing is simple, perspicuous, and elegant, so that it is both pleasing and instructive.

I am therefore of opinion, that Dr A. Thomson is not only well qualified for the vacant Professorship of Physiology in this University, but that very few, if any, can produce equal pretensions to the situation.

ALEXANDER WATSON.

No. XXXV.

From WILLIAM WOOD, Esq., F.R.S.E., formerly President of the Royal College of Surgeons, &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

EDINBURGH, 30th June 1842.

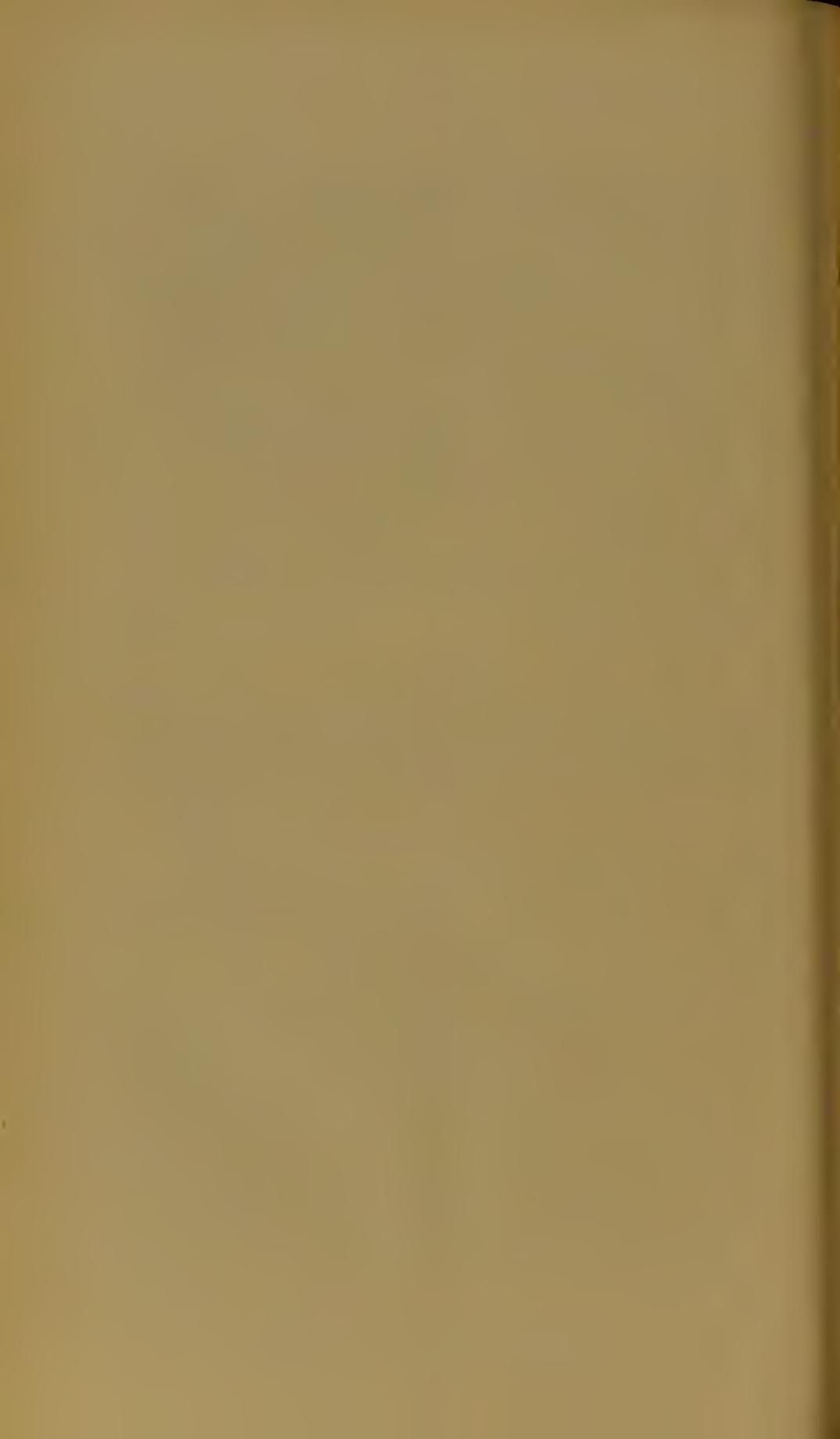
I have much pleasure in bearing my feeble testimony to your peculiar fitness for discharging, in any situation, the duties of a teacher of Anatomy and Physiology, with advantage to medical science, with benefit to the pupils who may attend your lectures, and with credit to yourself.

I have long enjoyed the most favourable opportunity of becoming aware of your great talents ; and of witnessing the zeal, industry, and success with which you have devoted them to the cultivation of medical science ; and more particularly to the improvement and extension of Anatomical and Physiological knowledge. I know well, too, the success which has attended your teaching of these important branches of medicine, both here and in Aberdeen. I have heard with much pleasure from some of my professional brethren of standing in the profession, how much they have been delighted with the lectures you have been lately delivering on particular branches of Physiology to more advanced students ; both on account of the valuable informa-

tion which they have derived from them, and of the very striking and agreeable way in which that information was given. I have to regret that particular circumstances, connected with public professional duty, have deprived me of the pleasure and advantage of being present at these Lectures, and of being enabled to speak of them from personal experience. I have no hesitation in stating it to be my opinion, that there is no man better qualified than yourself to do justice to the teaching of Anatomy and Physiology, in any public situation to which you may be appointed. I am, my Dear Sir, very sincerely yours,

WILLIAM WOOD.

To Dr Allen Thomson.



CHAIR  
OF THE  
INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE.

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ADDITIONAL TESTIMONALS

IN FAVOUR OF

DR ALLEN THOMSON.



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## No. XXXVI.

From JOHN H. BALFOUR, M.D., Edin., F.R.S.E.,  
Regius Professor of Botany in the University of  
Glasgow, &c.

GLASGOW, 26th August 1842.

I have been intimately acquainted with Dr Allen Thomson ever since I commenced my medical studies, and I have had ample opportunities of observing his talents and acquirements.

He has long distinguished himself by his Physiological and Anatomical researches, and by the minuteness and accuracy of his observations. He is well versed in microscopic investigations, and his experimental inquiries have been conducted in a most able and successful manner.

He has published several excellent Physiological papers, and he has also read many valuable communications of a similar nature in the Medical and Natural History Societies of Edinburgh. He was one of the first to direct the attention of British Physiologists to the obscure and difficult subject of Embryology, which he has treated in a most able manner. The beautiful collection of preparations which he has made to illustrate Foetal Development, amply evince his perfect acquaintance with all the details of this department of Science.

He delivered several courses of Lectures on the Institutes of Medicine, in which he displayed a thorough acquaintance with the whole range of Physiology, both Animal and Vegetable; and his printed Syllabus of these Lectures shews great clearness of arrangement, and a vast extent of physiological information. In regard to his knowledge of Vegetable Physiology, I can speak most decidedly, as I have often derived the greatest benefit from his advice and assistance.

He has been a most successful teacher of Anatomy,—a science without a complete knowledge of which it is impossible for any one to be a sound Physiologist.

He possesses also great facility of communicating information to others,—expressing himself in a clear and lucid manner, and inspiring his pupils with zeal and enthusiasm.

On these accounts, I consider Dr Allen Thomson highly qualified for the situation to which he now aspires, and I am satisfied that his appointment to the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine will reflect credit on the University of Edinburgh.

J. H. BALFOUR.

No. XXXVII.

From MONSIEUR BRESCHET, Professor of Anatomy in  
Paris, &c., &c.

(*Translation.*)

PARIS, 26th August 1842.

I the undersigned Doctor of Medicine, Professor of Anatomy in the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, Member of the Institute (Academy of Sciences), and of the Royal Academy of Medicine, Surgeon in Ordinary of the Hôtel Dieu, Physician to the King, &c., certify, that I am acquainted with Mr Allen Thomson, and that during his stay in Paris I have had frequent intercourse with him, so as to enable me to judge of his intellectual and scientific character. I consider him as a man not only very well versed in all the branches of Medical Science, but as possessing especially a most exact and extended knowledge of the sciences of Anatomy and Physiology, both Human and Comparative.

Mr Allen Thomson expresses himself in these sciences as one who has studied their greatest depths, and who knows how to distinguish the true from the hypothetical. The

manner in which he has studied these sciences shews that he is qualified to extend their limits, and the facility with which he explains their doctrines, proves that he will be a most distinguished Professor. This opinion is the result of my most deep and conscientious conviction, and it is justified by the knowledge I possess of the numerous and excellent works which Mr Allen Thomson has published on the science of the Organism of Man and Animals.

In attestation of which, I have given the present Certificate, to be used as may be proper.

GILBERT BRESCHET.

No. XXXVIII.

From ROBERT CARSWELL, M.D., Physician in Ordinary to H. M. the King of the Belgians, formerly Professor of General Pathology in London University College, &c. &c.

My Dear Sir,

BRUSSELS, 21st August 1842.

It gives me great satisfaction to learn that you are about to become a Candidate for the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, now vacant by the translation of Dr Alison to that of Practice of Physic in the same celebrated School of Medicine.

Knowing how unweariedly and successfully you have devoted your time to the study of those objects which, I conceive, come within the sphere of this branch of medicine, I cannot but feel a strong conviction of your high qualification for the discharge of the important duties which it involves. And of this I feel more convinced, when I reflect on the extensive opportunities you have enjoyed of acquiring that extent and kind of knowledge so peculiarly neces-

sary for the successful investigation of this department of the economy of living beings. To this I may add your experience as a Public Teacher, which must have afforded you the occasion of discovering and applying the means best calculated for communicating to the students the knowledge you yourself possess.

As many of your friends and admirers will, no doubt, on this occasion enter more fully into details in regard to the qualifications which you possess for the ample discharge of the duties of the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine, permit me to express my best wishes for your appointment to a situation which holds out so much honour and distinction to your future labours.—Believe me, my Dear Sir, very sincerely yours,

ROBERT CARSWELL, M.D.

Dr Allen Thomson.

No. XXXIX.

From ROBERT CHRISTISON, M.D., Sec. R. S., Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh, &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

18th August 1842.

I am glad to find that the conditions of the succession to Dr Alison, as Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in our University, are such as to induce you to become a Candidate for the Chair; for I do not know any one more able to occupy it than yourself, or one whose election is more likely to benefit the University.

As a cultivator of Anatomy and Physiology, and especially the latter science, your past life has been mainly devoted to the most important branches of the Institutes of Medicine, and to those which alone, as it appears to me, the Professor will henceforth be required to teach. You

are well known in this and other countries as an ardent and successful original Inquirer in Physiological Science. You have likewise been already eminently successful as a Lecturer, and I have had personal opportunities of ascertaining that you possess the faculty of communicating your ideas, even on difficult and abstruse subjects, in ready and perspicuous language. Without these three qualifications,—a strong attachment to the subject to be taught,—a name, both abroad and at home as an original inquirer,—and unquestionable facility in imparting knowledge,—no man ought to receive any favour as a Candidate for a Professor's Chair in the Medical Faculty of the University. But where all these qualifications are possessed, as I consider them to be in your instance, the Patrons of the University can be at no loss to fill a vacant Chair to their satisfaction, to that of the public, and to the advantage of the Medical School of Edinburgh.

I sincerely wish you success, and will be too happy if I have the good fortune to welcome you as a Colleague. I am yours most truly,

R. CHRISTISON.

Dr Allen Thomson.

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No. XL.

From WILLIAM CLIFT, Esq., F.R.S., Conservator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons, London, &c. &c.

LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS, 27th August 1842.

I have the pleasure of being personally acquainted with Dr Allen Thomson, and know him to be an excellent Anatomist and Physiologist. His writings in various departments of Anatomy and Physiology are well known; and have, I think, justly obtained for him an extensive scientific reputation both at home and abroad.

The appointment of Dr Allen Thomson to the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh would, in my humble opinion, prove highly advantageous to that University. By attaching to the University a man so well known as a diligent and successful cultivator of those branches of Medical Science which it would be his duty to teach, I can only anticipate a continuance and increase of reputation to the University and to himself.

WM. CLIFT.

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No. XLI.

From JOHN COUPER, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Glasgow, &c. &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

GLASGOW, 133 MOORE PLACE,

*23<sup>rd</sup> August 1842.*

It will give me great pleasure if any expression of my opinion of your qualifications to fill the Chair of Physiology in the University of Edinburgh can be of use to you. Well knowing how easily you can procure the highest names in Europe to testify your distinguished merits as a Cultivator of Anatomy and Physiology, it would be equally superfluous and presumptuous in me to speak on that point. I may, however, be permitted to state, that since I have enjoyed the pleasure and advantage of being acquainted with you, I have had many opportunities of witnessing and admiring your ardour and success in the pursuit of knowledge, your remarkable modesty in estimating your own attainments, the simplicity and perspicuity of your style as a Writer and as a Public Speaker, your attractive and impressive manner as a Demonstrator, and your peculiar skill and ingenuity in devising illustrations to aid you in communicating your knowledge to others.

Taking these important qualifications into view along with your well known eminent attainments in Anatomy and

Physiology, I cannot in justice do less than add, that I know no one so well qualified to undertake the important duties of the vacant Chair, or so likely to execute them with advantage to science as well as to the University of Edinburgh. I am, my Dear Sir, very truly yours.

JOHN COUPER.

Dr Allen Thomson.

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No. XLII.

From M. Dubreuil, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Montpellier, &c., &c.

(*Translation.*)

MY DEAR SIR,

MONTPELLIER, 30th August 1842.

I am glad to learn that the situation of Professor of Physiology in the University of Edinburgh is now vacant. The estimation in which I, or I should rather say *we*, in France, hold you personally and your important publications, and the credit you have done to a name already rendered so justly celebrated by your worthy father, make me desire and assure me of your nomination.

In the event of your appointment, I shall have occasion to congratulate your University, which we admire and respect as the classic ground of learning and elevated zeal.

Your election to the Physiological Chair will be to you an encouragement to renewed exertions in the pursuit of your valuable scientific researches, among which are particularly to be distinguished those relating to Reproduction. Accept, my Dear Sir, the assurance of my regard and esteem.

DUBREUIL.

## No. XLIII.

From ROBERT FRORIEP, M.D., Professor of Medicine in the University of Berlin, Editor of the "Notizen fur Natur und Heilkunde, &c. &c.

(*Translation.*)

MY DEAR FRIEND,

BERLIN, 11th August 1842.

I have learned with much pleasure from your letter and from the friends whom you have introduced to my acquaintance, that you have returned to Edinburgh. Your talents and scientific acquirements give you not only a claim, but also impose upon you the obligation, to seek a wider field of activity than was afforded to you in Aberdeen.

The interest which I have always taken in your labours, which you might have expected from my friendship alone, will have been apparent to you from the fact of my having communicated to my countrymen, by translation, in my "Notizen fur Natur und Heilkunde," each of your works immediately after their publication. I can assure you that these works have always been considered of value in our literature, and have never been passed over in silence, when on the subjects of which they treat, the testimony of a conscientious observer, enjoying general confidence, was required.

It is desirable, for the sake of science, that you should obtain such a public station as may enable you to devote your time and energy, still more than heretofore, to your scientific pursuits, and secure for you the full participation of the rising physicians of your country in the same line of study.

No part of Physiology is at the present day more conducive to the improvement of medicine than the History of Development; no point of view more advantageous to the teacher of Physiology and Anatomy, than that in which the

History of Development forms the basis. This foundation cannot, however, be made available in the manner requisite for the teacher, without his having himself been engaged in making original researches and discoveries. But you have by your discoveries in this very field, acquired a high and universally acknowledged reputation. On this account, I believe that you are qualified in an especial manner to promote the scientific cultivation of your medical youth. On this account I wish, for your own sake, for that of your country and ours, that you may hold a Professorship of Anatomy or Physiology in one of your larger Universities; for it is only in such a position that the powers and talents of a teacher can be fully developed.

Believe me, that I shall rejoice for myself, and not less for our science, when I hear that you have obtained a public professorship in one of your larger Universities.

\* \* \*

I am always your true friend,

ROBERT FRORIEP.

Dr Allen Thomson.

#### No. XLIV.

From ROBERT GRAHAM, M.D., President of the Royal College of Physicians, Professor of Botany and Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, &c.

My DEAR SIR,

62 GREAT KING STREET,  
*24th August 1842.*

If you think that any expression of my opinion can be of any service to you in your application for the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine in this University, I have not the slightest hesitation in stating that I have the highest opinion of your natural talent and your acquired

information, and know well your zeal, industry, and love for the science of Physiology. I am quite assured that you will be a valuable acquisition to the medical school of the University if you obtain the appointment; and I beg you will permit me to add, that I shall with great earnestness welcome you as a colleague. Believe me yours most truly,

ROBT. GRAHAM.

Dr Allen Thomson.

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No. XLV.

From ROBERT HARRISON, M.D., T.C.D, M.R.I.A.,  
Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, London  
and Dublin; Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in  
Trinity College, Dublin, &c. &c.

1 HUME STREET, STEPHEN'S GREEN, DUBLIN,  
*27th August 1842.*

Although not personally acquainted with Dr Allen Thomson, I entertain a very high opinion and respect for his professional character and ability as manifested in his several writings. I consider him as eminently qualified to fill the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh.

The Institutes may be considered as involving the Philosophy of Medicine; and Dr Thomson's papers evince great talent and taste for inquiring into the most obscure and complicated parts of medical science, and satisfy me that he is peculiarly fitted to discharge the duties of this Professorship with honour to the University, and great advantage to the profession.

ROBERT HARRISON.

## No. XLVI.

From JOHN HART, M.D., M.R.I.A., one of the Professors in the School of Surgery of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, &c.

3 ELY PLACE, DUBLIN,

MY DEAR SIR,

*22d August 1842.*

With sincere pleasure I bear my humble testimony to your excellent qualifications as a Physiologist. My acquaintance with your Published Writings would lead me to think most favourably of your attainments in that science, even although I had not the pleasure of knowing you personally; and I feel a strong conviction that no gentleman is more likely to maintain the high character of the Medical School of Edinburgh, should you be elected to the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine in the University. I am, my Dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

JOHN HART.

To Allen Thomson, M.D.

## No. XLVII.

From WM. CHARLES HENRY, M.D., F.R.S., and G.S., formerly Physician to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, &c., &c., to the Right Honourable the Lord Provost and Town Council of Edinburgh.

HATFIELD, NEAR LEDBURY,

My LORD AND GENTLEMEN,

*19th August 1842.*

Having had the pleasure of knowing Dr Allen Thomson upwards of fifteen years, I am able to bear testimony to his marked predilection for the sciences of Ana-

tomy and Physiology from the commencement of his medical studies. He very early gave proof of an unusually exact and comprehensive knowledge of the literature of those sciences, and of his mastery of the higher doctrines of Philosophical Anatomy, in an elaborate Memoir on the Development of the Circulation. He has subsequently cultivated these branches of Medical Science with unremitting ardour, and has contributed essentially and largely to their advancement.

I have a strong conviction that Dr Thomson's profound acquirements in Descriptive, Structural, and Comparative Anatomy, and in the higher Physiology, would render him a most efficient teacher of the Institutes of Medicine in your University, in the well-being of which I shall ever feel the liveliest interest. I have the honour to remain, my Lord and Gentlemen, with great respect, yours sincerely,

WILLIAM CHARLES HENRY.

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No. XLVIII.

From THOMAS HODGKIN, M.D., Lecturer on Morbid Anatomy in Guy's Hospital, Author of several Works on Morbid Anatomy, on Physiology, &c.

BROOK STREET, *London*, 24, 8, 1842.

Having been informed that Dr Allen Thomson is a Candidate for the appointment of Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, I cannot omit the occasion of expressing my opinion, that the vacancy produced by the transfer of my friend Dr Alison could not be more advantageously filled, either as respects the credit of the University or the instruction of the Students, than by the election of Dr Thomson. I have had the advantage of be-

ing acquainted with him for many years, and I know that his acquirements are extensive and sound, both as derived from acquaintance with the labours of others, and as the fruits of his own original investigations. He is eminently qualified to promote the progress of his pupils by example as well as by precept, and his nomination must contribute to sustain the reputation of the medical school of Edinburgh.

THOMAS HODGKIN, M. D.

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No. XLIX.

From JOHN HOUSTON, M.D., M.R.I.A., Surgeon to the City of Dublin Hospital, Lecturer on Surgery, Curator of the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, &c. &c.

31 YORK STREET, DUBLIN,  
*26th August 1842.*

Having the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Dr Allen Thomson, and being fully in possession of the character and value of his scientific labours, I feel that it is competent for me to speak of his fitness for the Chair of the Institutes of Medicine in Edinburgh.

Dr A. Thomson is an original observer, as well as a learned expositor of the science of Physiology. His investigations on the Vascular System, and on Embryology, have, in themselves, procured for him a high rank among the practical Physiologists of the day, and prove him to be possessed of all the taste, precision, and experience requisite for the successful prosecution and teaching of so abstruse a science.

Dr Thomson's dexterity and skill in the use of the microscope, his ready and practised talent as a draughtsman,

and his knowledge of the art of preparing and preserving anatomical specimens, as shewn by his excellent Museum, are all to be taken into account in the calculation as to his fitness for the office of a public instructor.

Dr Thomson is endowed with natural abilities of the first order; and having been encouraged from his youth to look to the important position to which he now aspires as the great object and end of his ambition,—having, with a view to such, received an appropriate liberal education under circumstances the most favourable, and being early trained to habits of industry and of patient investigation,—being, moreover, already so well practised as a Lecturer as to have obtained for himself a high reputation for clearness, judgment, and eloquence in delivery, it may in truth be stated, that Dr Thomson is already fully prepared in every particular for the duties he proposes to undertake. And, with such qualities, it cannot be doubted that, should he be elected successor in office to Professor Alison, the eclat given to the professorship by that distinguished gentleman will be maintained,—public expectation will be satisfied,—and the University benefited by the acquisition.

JOHN HOUSTON.

No. L.

From FRANCIS KIERNAN, F.R.S., Member of the Senate, and Examiner in Anatomy and Physiology in the University of London, &c.

LONDON, August 1842.

My acquaintance with the writings of Dr Allen Thomson has impressed me with the highest opinion of his talents

and attainments as a Physiologist, and of his capacity for conducting physiological investigations; and having understood that he is a Candidate for the Chair of Physiology in the University of Edinburgh, I have no hesitation in stating that I consider him eminently qualified for the office, and that I feel satisfied he will, if elected, materially contribute to maintain the high character of the University.

FRANCIS KIERNAN.

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No. LI.

From RICHARD OWEN, F.R.S., Hunterian Professor in the Royal College of Surgeons, London, Author of numerous Memoirs on Comparative Anatomy and Physiology, &c. &c.

LONDON, 26<sup>th</sup> August 1812.

Dr Allen Thomson's published Works on Anatomy and Physiology, his long experience as a teacher of these sciences, and the estimation in which his various and valuable researches are held both at home and abroad, bear sufficient testimony to his qualifications for the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh. I beg to offer, from many years acquaintance with Dr A. Thomson, my own conviction of the great value of his services to the University in the event of his election to the vacant Chair.

RICHARD OWEN.

## No. LII.

From HARRY RAINY, M.D., Professor of Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Glasgow, &c.

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW,  
20th August 1842.

My personal acquaintance with Dr Allen Thomson has been of short duration ; but having lectured for six years on the Institutes of Medicine, I have had occasion to pay a special attention to those subjects with which he has been chiefly occupied ; and I have thus had ample opportunities of observing the zeal and talent with which he has illustrated some of the most intricate parts of medical science.

The papers which he has successively published have contributed materially to extend the knowledge of minute Anatomy and Physiology in this country. While they exhibit a familiar and extensive acquaintance with all the recent discoveries, they also evince a decided talent for original investigation, united with an acute and sound judgment.

In communicating his views to others, Dr Thomson is remarkably distinguished, both in his writings and oral lectures, by the perspicuity of his language and arrangement,—a quality of indispensable importance to a Public Teacher, and without which the greatest learning and highest talents may prove unavailing.

I am not acquainted with any person in this country, in all respects more eminently qualified than Dr Thomson for the chair of the Institutes of Medicine ; and I am persuaded his appointment would conduce much to sustain the fame of the University of Edinburgh, and promote the interests of Medical Science.

HARRY RAINY.

## No. LIII.

From JOHN SCOTT, M.D., F.R.C. Surg. Edin., Surgeon Extraordinary to the Queen for Scotland, &c. &c.

12 HOWE STREET, EDINBURGH,

MY DEAR SIR,

3d Sept. 1842.

Allow me to express my sincere wishes for the success of your present canvass for the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine, believing, as I do, that there is no individual better qualified than yourself to fill this important Chair in the University. The proofs that you are so, are already before the profession; and to these permit me to add the following passage, which I have just met with in the recently published "Précis d'Anatomie transcendente appliquée à la Physiologie," by M. Serres of Paris, whose researches in some of the most recondite subjects of Organology have placed his name among the very first in Physiological science. "Next to the double development of the Vertebrae, the part of our researches in Organology, which has been the most disputed, is the fact of the double original state of the Aorta, and the subsequent conversion of the two aortas into a single central vessel. This observation, one of the most important in the theory of developments and formations, has been repeated by Dr Allen Thomson, one of our most celebrated modern Embryologists. The mode in which he has proceeded to verify this fact has given it such a character of certainty, that we consider it our duty to quote the following passage from his memoir." Here follows a very long transcript from the French translation of your Memoir on the Development of the Vascular System in Vertebrated Animals.

With best wishes, I remain, my Dear Sir, yours most truly,

JOHN SCOTT

## No. LIV.

From CLAUDIO TARRAL, M.D., Paris, formerly Surgeon-Major in the Polish Army, Author of several Memoirs on Medical and Surgical subjects, &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

6 RUE CASTIGLIONE, PARIS,

28th August 1842.

I have never given my feeble testimony in favour of a Candidate with more pleasure than in this instance. Your various contributions to science have always received my careful attention, and I can assure you they are much admired upon the Continent. It would be well for you if the chances of success in your forthcoming trial were based upon the merits of your labours, for I think few of your competitors would give more general satisfaction. Your printed Works are universally esteemed for their accurate and minute research, for their sound erudition, and likewise for their originality of thought. Your intimate knowledge of the French, German, and Italian literatures can scarcely be surpassed, which is an immense advantage in these days, when so many valuable publications are constantly issuing from the pens of Continental writers. Your proficiency in Anatomy and Physiology, so essential for the investigation of diseases, the appreciation of their symptoms, and the explanation of their phenomena, is such as seldom falls to the share of the Physician, who too frequently is little conversant with these branches of science, although they may very justly be called the polar stars of Medicine.

In selecting you for the honour of the Professorship of the Institutes of Medicine, Edinburgh, will confer a favour upon Science, will encourage the labours of one of her young and most devoted followers, and will prove, what too rarely occurs, that the son is worthy of treading in the same path as the father, whose long established celebrity has thrown so much lustre on his name.

Wishing you every success, believe me, my Dear Sir,  
very sincerely yours,

CLAUDIO TARRAL.

## No. LV.

From Dr FREDERICK TIEDEMANN, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Heidelberg, &c., &c.

HEIDELBERG, *August 1842.*

The undersigned takes pleasure in hereby stating, that he is well acquainted with Dr Allen Thomson, the son of the celebrated Professor Thomson of Edinburgh, as a gentleman of great scientific attainments; not alone from his Anatomical and Physiological writings, but also from personal acquaintance with him. He is also persuaded, that he will be an excellent Teacher of Anatomy and Physiology, as useful to his scholars as to the sciences.

F. TIEDEMANN.

## No. LVI.

From R. WILLIS, M D., Physician to the Royal Infirmary for Children, Lecturer on the Principles and Practice of Medicine, Author of various works on Practical Medicine, &c.

LONDON, DOVER STREET, *3d Sept. 1842.*

Having been personally acquainted with Dr Allen Thomson for a considerable number of years, I have the greatest pleasure in bearing testimony to the zeal and success with which he devotes himself to the cultivation of Anatomy and

Physiology. Every medical man, indeed, who is in any way conversant with the science of his profession, must feel himself Dr Thomson's debtor for his original enquiries into the subject of Embryology, and for his luminous exposition of various others of the more abstruse and difficult matters in Physiology. Even from his boyhood, Dr Allen Thomson has shown a decided taste for the study of Anatomy and Physiology, and having gone on to educate himself as a teacher of these sciences, or rather of *this* science, for they are one and indivisible, he may be said to have passed his life in making and improving opportunities to extend his knowledge of the structure and functions of man and the lower animals.

I would have gone on to bear witness to Dr Allen Thomson's singular fitness for undertaking the arduous and responsible duties of a Teacher of Anatomy and Physiology, had he not first, as a Private Lecturer in Edinburgh, and next, as Professor in the Marischal College of Aberdeen, given ample proof of his power to impart in the best manner the copious stores of information which he has accumulated.

On the whole, I believe that there is no man in this country better prepared to take on himself the duty of a Chair of Physiology or Institutes of Medicine. I am certain that there is none who, by the pains he has taken and the evidence he has given of ability, can shew higher claims to the consideration and confidence of his professional brethren, and of the public at large, than Dr Allen Thomson.

R. WILLIS.

## No. LVII.

From Dr JOHN REID, Professor of Anatomy and Medicine in the University of St Andrews, &c. &c.

*16th Sept. 1841.*

I have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the great talents, and high professional attainments of Dr Allen Thomson. He has for many years devoted himself with great judgment and unwearied zeal to the prosecution of Anatomy and Physiology, and his knowledge on these subjects is extensive and accurate in a very remarkable degree. His published memoirs and papers are distinguished not less by caution, judgment, and strictly scientific views, than by varied, and extensive learning, and have placed him deservedly high as an authority in Anatomy and Physiology, in this country, and on the continent. Dr Thomson also expresses himself readily and distinctly ; and, having had very considerable experience in teaching, possesses all the requisites of an effective lecturer. No one who knows Dr Thomson can for a moment doubt that he is admirably qualified for occupying a chair of Anatomy in any University, and that his exertions in such a field, will reflect honour on any Institution with which he may be connected.

JOHN REID, M.D.

This and the following Testimonials were printed after Dr Thomson's election to the Professorship of the Institute of Medicine, in the University of Edinburgh.

## No. LVIII.

From M. DUCROTAY DE BLAINVILLE, Member of the Institute of France, Professor of the Faculty of Sciences, &c. &c.

SIR,

ROYAL GARDEN, PARIS,  
*3d September 1842.*

Although I am not acquainted with all your publications on the Science of the Organization of Animals, I cannot but say that those of them I have read, and among others, your Researches on the Development of the Vascular and Respiratory Systems in the Foetus, and on the Production of New Bloodvessels in Wounds, &c., have deeply interested me from the difficulty and importance of the subjects.

I may add that I have frequently consulted with advantage your articles on Circulation and Generation in the Cyclopedia of Anatomy and Physiology.

If this evidence from me can be of the slightest use to you in your present object, I shall be glad as regards the Patrons, and much pleased on your account. Accept the assurance, &c.

D. DE BLAINVILLE.

Dr Allen Thomson.

## No. LIX.

From M. VELPEAU, M. D., Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine, Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, &c. &c.

MY DEAR SIR,

PARIS, RUE DE VERNEUIL, 7.

*30th August 1842.*

I learn with pleasure that you are a Candidate for

the vacant Chair of Physiology in Edinburgh. Every thing points you out as likely to obtain this place. Your numerous and important works naturally lead to it, your Ovological Researches must be of great weight in the balance, and I doubt if the Patrons can appoint any one more capable of the duty, or worthy of the honour, than yourself.

Accept by anticipation my congratulation, and believe me,  
yours sincerely,

VELPEAU.

Dr Allen Thomson.

No. LX.

From Dr E. H. WEBER, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology at Leipzig, Author of a Systematic Work on Anatomy, and of various Anatomical and Physiological Memoirs.

RESPECTED SIR,

Leipzig, 22d July 1842.

I have just received from Dr Sonnenkalb on his return from England the specimens you sent me of the very advantageous method which you adopt for preserving small Anatomical Preparations between glasses, without evaporation of the preserving fluid, and in such a manner that the objects may be easily examined with the microscope.\* The plan is excellent, and will contribute much to the cultivation of some of the finer parts of Anatomy and Pathology.

Your beautiful researches and learned exposition of the formation of the Embryo of Man and Animals, have been translated into German, and are read with interest. No one has proved so fully as you have done, that the earliest

\* A modification of Mr Goadby's method.

human embryo is formed in the most essential particulars in the same manner as that of Mammalia and Birds.

It will afford me much pleasure to hear that you have obtained a situation as Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in Edinburgh. With kind regards, I am yours very truly,

ERNST HEINRICH WEBER.

Dr Allen Thomson.

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No. LXI.

From Dr VON WALThER, Privy Counsellor and Physician to the King of Bavaria, Professor in the University of Munich, &c., &c.

HONOURED SIR,

MUNICH, 7th September 1842.

It is with particular pleasure that I learn from your favour of the 22d August, that you intend to apply for the Chair of Physiology in the University of Edinburgh. If the Municipal Council of your town should confer this appointment upon you, we may congratulate this very respectable Body upon having made a most excellent choice, and that Science also which you have much enriched by means of your investigations and discoveries : of which fact I have convinced myself long ago by the study of your publications, and the same is also universally acknowledged in Germany. Farewell, and with best wishes, I am, yours very truly,

VON WALThER, D. M.

Dr Allen Thomson.

## No. LXII.

From Dr. LANGENBECK, Professor of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of Gottingen, and Author of several Works on Anatomy and Surgery, &c. &c.

GOTTINGEN, 10th September 1842.

Mr Langenbeck has the honour of paying his compliments to Mr Thomson, and assures him that he is very glad of having received a letter from him, which proves that he has not yet forgotten the time he passed in Gottingen.

It will give me great pleasure to hear that you are elected to the Professorship of Physiology,—a place that will certainly not only open to your eminent talents and indefatigable activity a larger sphere for cultivating and teaching Anatomy and Physiology, but offer in the mean time a better occasion to further and enrich our science, in which you have already wrought since I had the honour of seeing you with an extraordinary assiduity and success. For I always read your numerous and excellent writings, especially those on Embryology and Granulations, with the greatest pleasure and attention.

\* \* \*

I am with much respect, &c.,

LANGENBECK

To Mr Thomson, M.D.

## No. LXIII.

From Dr RUDOLPH WAGNER, Professor of Physiology in the University of Gottingen, Author of a Systematic Treatise on Physiology, and various Memoirs on Anatomy and Physiology.

Sir,

GOTTINGEN, September 11. 1842.

I was very glad to hear that you are engaged with the article Ovum, for Professor Todd's Cyclopædia. You would much oblige me by informing me at what time this article shall appear, being occupied with a second edition of my Physiological Manual. I regret that I could not make use of your excellent contributions to the History of the Structure of the Human Ovum, published in the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, vol. lii., for the first edition of my Manual. You have undoubtedly observed the earliest states of the Human Ovum among all physiologists of the day.

I take the opportunity to assure you, that I feel very much indebted for the information which I derived from your different articles and memoirs concerning the Anatomy, Physiology, and History of the Fœtus. All your publications are distinguished by a copiousness of facts, a great perspicuity and luminousness of exposition, and a rare knowledge of foreign literature. Your name stands already in great reputation among German Physiologists. I desire in the interest of science that the University of Edinburgh may confer upon you very soon a public Professorship in one of our favourite sciences of Anatomy and Physiology, for enabling you to spend all your time in the enlargement of these most interesting parts of our profession. I have the honour to remain very faithfully yours,

RUDOLPH WAGNER, M.D.

(The original letters Nos. 62 and 63 are in English as given above.)

## No. LXIV.

From Dr JOHANNES MÜLLER, Professor of Anatomy and Physiology in the University of Berlin, Author of a System of Human Physiology and various other Works on Anatomy and Physiology.

RESPECTED COLLEAGUE,

BERLIN, 1st December 1842.

I received your letter on my return to Berlin after an absence of three months in Italy; and as I learned at the same time from Professor Mitscherlich, that you had been appointed to the Chair of Physiology in the University of Edinburgh, I considered a Testimonial to be no longer necessary. I can now only offer you my congratulations upon your having obtained the object of your wishes, and being appointed to a situation in accordance with your scientific merit.

I send you from time to time extracts from the Monthly Reports of our Academy of Sciences, containing memoirs by me: the last I have despatched contains a paper on the Swimming-Bladder of Fishes. That upon the *Amphioxus Lanceolatus* you have already without doubt received. This little creature exists in such quantities at Naples that I brought home with me several thousands. With esteem and regard. I am sincerely yours,

J. MÜLLER.

Dr Allen Thomson

